

10           **METHOD AND APPARATUS PROVIDING CALLER IDENTIFICATION  
TELEPHONE SERVICE WITH A REAL TIME AUDIO MESSAGE**

Abstract of the Disclosure

An Audio Caller ID service is provided which permits the calling party  
15 to speak a real time audio message that can be received and played by the called  
party's Caller ID equipment while his telephone equipment remains in the "on-  
hook" state. A calling party which has Audio Caller ID (ACID) service would speak  
a short audio message before dialing the called party. That message is converted  
to digital form, optionally compressed, and transferred to the called party in a  
20 manner similar to conventional Caller ID information. The called party's Caller ID  
equipment operates in the conventional manner, except that the received Audio  
Caller ID signal is recognized as an audio signal. At the site of the called party, a  
decoder is provided to convert the digital signal to an analog audio signal, and this  
analog signal is provided to a speaker, which plays back the calling party's audio  
25 message.